



High Tech Forum



May 26, 1999
SSAC Breakout Session



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SSAC Draft Recommendations 1/2

- “The FAA should establish a means to ensure that the software approval process allows applicants to use appropriate new technologies in a timely manner.”

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SSAC Draft Recommendations 2/2

- “The FAA should initiate a program of proactive research to evaluate the potential impact of new software technology on cost and safety. The research output should influence the development of policy, guidance, regulations, and training for software engineering. The failure to address technology changes in a timely manner may prevent technology that provides safety and economic benefits from implementation for several years.”

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Purpose of Session

- Brainstorm Ways to Meet Technology Changes in a Timely Manner
 - Identify Today's Process
 - Identify Current Process Problems
 - Identify Barriers To Success
 - Identify Potential Ways To Improve

Current Process

FAA Research:

- Need Identified
- Plan Developed
- 2+ years later, carry out plan

FAA Guidance:

- Need identified
- Committee formed
- TOR formed
- Meet every 3-6 mo
- Split into sub-groups
- Requires consensus
- FAA adopt material

FAA Policy:

Need Identified
Lead and Team Identified
Topic Researched
Position Developed
Draft Policy Circulated
Comments Addressed
Notice Finalized/Signed
Notice Published

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Current “Hold Ups”

- No data to substantiate
- Track record problematic or non-existent
- Communication
- Consensus process takes a long time
- Education
- Conflicting agendas
- Proprietary data (conflicting agendas)
- No basis for certification

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Concepts for Improvement

- Approach committee work differently:
 - Get industry/big teams concerns documented up front
 - Small core group to put together a position to address technology and the concerns
 - Provide rationale and education for the product
 - Members must be stable and knowledgeable
 - Focus on the primary agenda
 - Develop team/forum, as the need arises

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Next Steps

- Document The Current Process for Addressing New Technologies
- Put Together Process Improvement Proposal Using Breakout Group Input
- Document Steps That Industry Should Take When Approaching the FAA with a New Technology